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Sen. Stamas schedules emerald ash borer informational forums in northern Michigan

LANSING – In response to the widespread and devastating effects of the emerald ash borer in northern Michigan, state Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, has scheduled two informational forums for residents of the 36th Senate District to attend.

“Michigan’s environment is being threatened by non-native insects and plants that harm the delicate balance of our natural ecosystem,” Stamas said. “We need to educate and empower ourselves about how to properly help prevent the spread of this devastating insect.”

Recently Senate Republicans introduced legislation to identify prohibited insects and aquatic plant species such as the emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorned beetle, which both threaten Michigan’s tree population. The legislation would also prohibit the release and introduction of certain insects and aquatic plant species.

“I’m pleased we’re working on legislation to help control the emerald ash borer problem,” Stamas said. “But, we need to do everything in our power to help stop the spread of this destructive bug and that includes making the public as aware of the problem as possible.”

Emerald ash borer quarantines have been established in portions of Oscoda, Alcona, Iosco and Midland counties.

Both forums are planned for Monday, Feb. 28 and will feature representatives from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Farm Bureau.

The first forum is scheduled for 1 to 3 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at the Alpine Center in Gaylord, located at 800 Livingston Blvd. in Otsego County.

The second forum will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Greenbush Township Hall located at 5039 Campbell St. in Alcona County.

Future forums at other locations in the 36th Senate District will be announced in the near future.

For more information on either of the emerald ash borer informational forums, contact Stamas’ office at 1-866-305-2136.